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Diana T Fritz 05/24/2007 04:36:25 PM From DB/Inbox: Search Results

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CONFIDENTIAL

SIPDIS  
TELEGRAM

April 07, 2003

To: No Action Addressee  
Action: Unknown  
From: AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI (ABU DHABI 1662 - UNKNOWN)  
TAGS: ECON, PREL  
Captions: None  
Subject: UAE: ENCOURAGING GCC EFFORT ON HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE  
FOR IRAQ  
Ref: None

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 01662

SIPDIS  
CXABU:  
ACTION: POL  
INFO: RSO P/M ECON AMB DCM

DISSEMINATION: POL  
CHARGE: PROG

APPROVED: AMB:MMWAHBA  
DRAFTED: POL:STWILLIAMS  
CLEARED: DCM:RAALBRIGHT; ECON:TEWILLIAMS

VZCZCADI116  
OO RUEHC RUEHZM RHEHNSC RUEAIIA RHEFDIA RUEKJCS  
RUEKJCS RUCJACC  
DE RUEHAD #1662 0971259  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 071259Z APR 03  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9293  
INFO RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC//J5/UNMA// IMMEDIATE  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC//OSD/NESA// IMMEDIATE  
RUCJACC/USCINCENT MACDILL AFB FL//CCJ3/CCJ4/CCJ5// IMMEDIATE  
RUEHZM/GCC COLLECTIVE PRIORITY  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ABU DHABI 001662

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/FO, NEA/NGA AND NEA/ARP

STATE ALSO FOR PRM/ANE

CENTCOM FOR POLAD AMBASSADOR LITT

NSC FOR ABRAMS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 04/07/08  
TAGS: [ECON](#) [PREL](#) [IZ](#) [TC](#)  
SUBJECT: UAE: ENCOURAGING GCC EFFORT ON  
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE FOR IRAQ

REF: State 86877

[1](#)1. (U) Classified by Ambassador Marcelle M. Wahba

for reasons 1.5 (B) and (D).

¶2. (C) The Ambassador delivered reftel demarche to MFA Minstate Shaykh Hamdan bin Zayid Al-Nahyan late in the evening on April 6. Hamdan, along with Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Khalifa bin Zayid, had met earlier in the day with Qatari FM Hamad bin Jassem Al-Thani. Hamdan confirmed that Iraq's humanitarian needs would be on the agenda of the April 7 GCC Foreign Ministerial in Kuwait and there would be mention of it in the communique. (Note: The UAE will be represented by titular Foreign Minister Rashid Abdullah Al-Nuaimi. See septel on Hamdan's comments about other topics to be raised at the meeting. End Note.)

¶3. (C) Hamdan said the UAE was eager to deliver humanitarian aid and, with the exception perhaps of Kuwait, is one of the only GCC countries with the means, personnel and expertise to get assistance into Iraq. In fact, Hamdan noted that the Bahrainis and Qataris have already informally approached the UAE Red Crescent Authority to have the RCA move assistance from these countries via RCA channels. In Hamdan's view, the UAE RCA, with its already strong connections in Iraq, would find more acceptance as a deliverer of humanitarian aid than other, unspecified, countries in the region.

¶4. (C) Other than facilitating the shipments of sister Red Crescent societies, Hamdan stated, the UAEG prefers not to coordinate formally on a GCC basis as the Emiratis do not want to be held hostage to the processes of other states. He further noted that the UAE had hosted that day a meeting between the ICRC and the International Federation of Red Crescent societies during which the participants discussed moving aid through Kuwait and Syria. (See septel for a readout from the RCA on this meeting.)

¶5. (C) Hamdan indicated that the UAEG was under pressure to quickly move humanitarian assistance because of the heightened public concern about civilian hardships in Iraq. The RCA had collected items from the private sector and a number of citizens and expatriates. Hamdan also noted the Dirhams 7 million (approx USD 3 million) private donation made by his mother, UAE First Lady Shaykha Fatima Bint Mubarak Al-Kitbi.

¶6. (C) Hamdan briefed that the UAE was ready to launch a ship with 700 tons of RCA assistance on Tuesday, 4/8. (Note: The RCA and the UAE GHQ have coordinated this shipment with the Embassy. The HOC has approved the shipment and we are awaiting last minute details from the UAE side and CENTCOM/NAVCENT to facilitate the ship's access to Umm Qasr. End Note.)

¶7. (C) COMMENT: As we have previously noted, the UAE prefers to channel its assistance on a bilateral basis. This ensures accountability and, addresses the UAEG's political need to demonstrate to the UAE public that it is providing humanitarian relief to the Iraqi people. END COMMENT.

WAHBA